



Sheila Dixon

Mayor,
Baltimore

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2007

CONTACT:

Anthony McCarthy
(410) 869-6079 (Cell)

**Mayor Sheila Dixon to Award \$2 million in Grants to Park Heights
Programs for Employment and Youth Services**

Baltimore, MD (March 19, 2007) – Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon joined representatives from the Pimlico Community Development Authority and the Department of Planning to award more than \$2 million to organizations to provide comprehensive services and programs to residents of Park Heights.

“With this first round of funding, 500 residents will receive direct services that will impact this neighborhood greatly,” said Dixon. “The money being spent here is going to make a difference in the lives of many people here in Park Heights, and in many different ways.”

Monday’s announcement is one of series of steps being taken to implement the Park Heights Master Plan.

The community goals outlined in the Master Plan include: human development; housing development, community mobilization/public safety and workforce/economic development. Together they address the human, economic and physical challenges facing the Park Heights community. The Master Plan seeks to achieve sustainable community development, community based partnerships and access to opportunity for Park Heights residents.

During the summer 2006, the Department of Planning under the guidance of Otis Rolley, Pimlico Community Development Authority underwent an extensive Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process to jumpstart its Human Service strategy for Park Heights. The NOFA sought proposals that would impact those areas of priorities outlined in the Master Plan youth, jobs, seniors, substance abuse and health.

After a lengthy review process the Dept of Planning and PCDA have awarded \$2million dollars to organizations to provide comprehensive services and programs to residents of Park Heights. During its first round of funding, more than 500 residents will receive direct services, programs and job placement and hundreds more will be affected.

The grants were awarded to the following groups:

St Ambrose Learn to Earn at St Ambrose

The St Ambrose Center will be awarded funds to expand its *Learn to Earn* program to provide education and job training programs in the Culinary Arts and Computer Technology for residents

with Park Heights. A grant for \$165,812.00 for three years will be awarded to the Center to expand its approach to providing training to Park Heights residents.

Park Heights Community Health Alliance, Inc.

Park Heights Outreach & Recruitment Partnership- The Peace Project

Park Heights Community Health Alliance, Inc. will be awarded funds to expand its successful programs for Park Height youth participating in *The Peace Project*. The program targets youth between the ages of 10 and 19 to provide a positive influence and attitudes about violence through the performing arts and assistance in translating that growth into academic achievements. The Peace Project will be awarded \$109,350.00 for three years to expand and implement its program and services to Park height youth.

Jesus Reigns Word Worship Ministries, Inc.

Young and Future Scholars After-School Program

Young and Future Scholars After-School Program will partner with Arlington Elementary School to provide tutorial and recreational activities to students. They propose to provide services to 50 “at risk” youth in the areas of math and science utilizing the skills and expertise of volunteers from the greater Baltimore community. *The Young and Future Scholars Program* will be awarded \$157,350 to provide its tutorial and cultural enrichment activities to elementary children in the Park Heights community.

KIPP Ujima Village Academy

KIPP Ujima Village Academy will be awarded a grant to continue its operations and nationally recognized curriculum in the Park Heights community. *KIPP Ujima Village Academy* serves students in grades 5-8 providing academic sills enhancement, intellectual habits and character building among its students. *KIPP Ujima Village Academy* will be awarded \$500,000 to continue its operations and expand its current enrollment.

The Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development

The Center for Fathers, Families and Workforce Development will be awarded funds to expand its services in providing curriculum based services, case management, job training and placement to more than 90 fathers participating in their services. Their concept of assisting fathers in evaluating their lives and reaffirming their commitment to fatherhood has been nationally recognized. *The Center for Fathers, families and Workforce Development* will be awarded \$99,984.00 to continue its holistic approach incorporating workforce development, family strengthening and certified parenting education.

The Workforce Center @ Sojourner Douglas College.

The Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA) will confirm its commitment to the Park Heights community with the development of a *The Phoenix Project: A Partnership for Jobs*, a workforce development strategy in partnership with the city. The Workforce Center @ Sojourner Douglas College and local organizations and foundations to pilot a Customized Training Program for Park Heights residents. A direct job placement program, will give residents an opportunity to receive customized training and barrier removal services for placement in the areas of healthcare, construction, and the hotel/hospitality industry. The pilot modeled after several local and national successful programs will provide supportive services as well as career advancement and retention components to ensure the success of each resident as they seek to improve the quality of their lives. The Workforce Center @ SDC will be awarded \$650,000 to recruit, train, place and retain 100 residents from the Park Heights community.

#

Please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov